

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OES-03 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05

FEA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 CU-02 DEAE-00 SNM-02

AS-01 /121 W

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R 210805Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 871

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 0228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #3

1. DEATH OF MALAYSIAN PM (UNCLAS)

SUDDEN DEATH OF MALAYSIAN PM RAZAK EVIDENTLY CAME AS SURPRISE TO GUB WHICH WAS ANTICIPATING HIS VISIT HERE LATER THIS MONTH.

FOREIGN MINISTER U HLA PHONE WAS DISPATCHED BY SPECIAL UBA FLIGHT TO ATTEND FUNERAL AND PRIME MINISTER SEIN WIN SIGNED CONDOLENCE BOOK AT MALAYSIAN EMBASSY. PRESIDENT NE WIN ISSUED THE CUSTOMARY
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MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BUT, DESPITE REPORTEDLY CLOSE FRIENDSHIP

WITH RAZAK, DID NOT OFFER SPECIAL PERSONAL NOTE AS HE DID ON THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI.

2. GENERAL SAN YU VISITS TENASSERIM (UNCLAS)

BSPP SECRETARY GENERAL, GENERAL SAN YU TOURED TENASSERIM JANUARY 13-15. DURING TRIP SAN YU PROMOTED "FOUR-DENIAL" CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY AGAINST KAREN INSURGENTS IN TENASSERIM, ATTACKED BLACK MARKET ACTIVITY, ALSO COMMON THERE, AND PROMOTED BSPP.

3. ORGANIZATION RE-REGISTRATION (UNCLAS)

GUB HAS ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF NEW CENTRAL BODY LARGELY COMPOSED OF SENIOR POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS WHICH WILL OVERSEE REGISTRATION OF ALL PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXCEPTION OF SOME RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS (ACTUALLY REREGISTRATION SINCE ALL ORGANIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH MINISTRY OF HOME AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS). MOVE EVIDENTLY DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH TIGHTER CONTROL OVER NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS. AS HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS RANGOON ROTARY CLUB, WHICH WAS DISOLVED BY GUB IN LATE DECEMBER, WILL APPLY FOR REGISTRATION BEFORE NEW BODY.

4. OIL DEVELOPMENTS (CONF)

JAPANESE AODC HAS PLUGGED AND ABANDONED ITS WELL IN BLOCK A-4, APPARENTLY WITHOUT MAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERY. TOTAL DEPTH OF THE WELL WAS 7703 FEET. AODC IS ALSO AT WORK ON ITS NEW WELL IN BLOCK A-3, CURRENTLY DRILLING AT ABOUT 1600 FEET. ESSO HAS REACHED 4696 FEET IN ITS NEW WELL IN BLOCK M-1, AND HAS NOT AS YET ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING WORTH TESTING. MARTABAN-CITIES SERVICE EXPECTS TO BEGIN WORK ON ITS NEXT WELL IN BLOCK A-6 IN EARLY FEB. AND TOTAL SHOULD COMMENCE DRILLING ITS NEW WELL IN BLOCK A-5 IN NEXT FEW DAYS. RESEARCH PAPER CRITICIZES GUB AGRICULTURAL POLICY (LOU)

PRESS HAS CARRIED PAPER OF DR. KHIN MAUNG KYI, OF INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS TO NINTH BURMA RESEARCH CONGRESS, WHICH CONTAINS CONSIDERABLE IMPLIED CRITICISM OF PAST GUB AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND PROVIDES SOME PRAGMATIC (FOR BURMA) ADVICE FOR SOLVING PROBLEM OF CONFIDENTIAL

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BURMA'S AGRICULTURAL STAGNATION. AFTER GIVING REQUIRED PRAISE FOR GUB'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURE, DR. KHIN MAUNG KYI CRITICIZES "DORMANT" STATE OF BURMA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DUE TO POOR LAND MANAGEMENT, INADEQUATE GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT AND INSUFFICIENT INPUTS AND PRICE INCENTIVES, AND CONCLUDES GOVERNMENT MUST OFFER MORE INVESTMENT AND INPUTS IF AGRICULTURE TO ADVANCE IN BURMA.

COMMENT: WHILE SOME PAST GUB AND PARTY DOCUMENTS HAVE ALSO CANDIDLY IDENTIFIED MANY PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, THIS IS FIRST TIME SUCH DOCUMENT MADE PUBLIC. ALSO UNUSUAL THAT CONCLUSION CONTAINED SOLUTION OTHER THAN WELL-WORN PHRASE THAT ALL MUST DO THEIR SOCIALIST DUTY AND WORK HARDER TO PRODUCE MORE. IT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING THAT SUCH DOCUMENT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED AT TIME WHEN EVEN MILDEST CRITICISM OF GUB OR SOCIALIST DOGMA BEING ELIMINATED FROM PRESS; PRESENTATION PROBABLY CONTAINED JUST ENOUGH TECHNICAL JARGON AND EUPHEMISMS TO GET BY CENSORS.

6. U.S. FIRM SIGNS CONTRACT FOR SALE OF LOGGING EQUIPMENT (UNCLAS)

ON JANUARY 20, U.S. FIRM, CLARK EQUIPMENT COMPANY, SIGNED CONTRACT WITH GUB TIMBER CORPORATION FOR DELIVERY OF U.S. MANUFACTURED TIMBER EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT (GRADERS AND SKIDDERS) WORTH MORE THAN HALF MILLION DOLLARS. PURCHASE FINANCED BY IDA LOAN. EQUIPMENT TO BE DELIVERED IN JULY THIS YEAR. CLARK REPRESENTATIVE DESCRIBED TIMBER CORPORATION'S HANDLING OF TENDER BIDS AS MOST HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD HE HAS EXPERIENCED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. "THEY DID EVERYTHING BY THE BOOK."

COMMENT: THIS SALE PUTS U.S. COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH BURMA OFF TO A GOOD START FOR 1976.

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7. GRADUATION (UNCLAS)

THE CLASS OF 1975 HELD GRADUATION CEREMONIES ON JANUARY 24, 1976 AT RANGOON UNIVERSITY. THIS LONG DELAYED CLASS TOOK THEIR FINAL EXAMINATIONS AT HOME, SINCE THEIR STUDIES WERE INTERRUPTED FIRST BY THE U THANT RIOTS IN DECEMBER 1974, AND AGAIN BY THE JUNE 75 STUDENT/LABOR DISTURBANCES. THE GRADUATION EXERCISES, HELD IN TWO SESSIONS, WERE FREE OF ANY PROTESTS.

8. WHY USSR IMPORTS WHEAT (UNCLAS)

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IN A LONG, DEFENSIVE FEATURE IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY, NOVOSTY GIVES A SERIES OF EXPLANATIONS FOR THE NEED TO BUY WHEAT FROM GRAIN-SURPLUS COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE U.S. AMONG THE MANY FACTORS CITED WERE ADVERSE GROWING CONDITIONS, INCREASED ANIMAL FODDER REQUIREMENTS AND, PARTICULARLY, GRAIN EXPORT OBLIGATIONS TO CMEA COUNTRIES, WHICH THE USSR FEELS REQUIRED TO MEET. THE U.S. ON ITS PART, THE ARTICLE CONTENDS, IS BUYING A LOT OF SOVIET FARM MACHINERY. IT ASSERTS "SOME 352,000 SOVIET TRACTORS ARE OPERATING IN FARMS IN THE U.S." ADDING BELATEDLY, "AND IN 77 OTHER COUNTRIES." THUS, "THE IMPORT OF GRAIN BY THE SOVIET UNION IS A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION."

8. U LWIN'S CULTURAL BLITZ (UNCLAS)

ADDRESSING MOVIE INDUSTRY PERSONNEL JANUARY 20, MINISTER OF INFORMATION, U LWIN, STRESSED NEED TO PROMOTE SOCIALISM IN FILM, AND AVOID "APING ALIEN CULTURE THAT WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE TIMES." WHILE THIS MAY BE FOLLOW-UP TO INYA LAKE HOTEL INCIDENT, IT ALSO IS PART OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST "DECADENT WESTERN CULTURE" AND FITS IN WITH WHAT IS KNOWN OF U LWIN'S OWN ATTITUDES.

9. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES, ARRESTS, AND CROP DESTRUCTION (UNCLAS)

IN SEPARATE ACTIONS IN LASHIO AND IN RANGOON, K.6,700 WORTH OF

HEROIN AND K.33,800 WORTH OF RAW OPIUM WERE RECENTLY SEIZED. FOUR ARRESTS WERE ALSO MADE. MEANWHILE, CAMPAIGN AGAINST POPPY FIELDS CONTINUES WITH PRESS REPORTING 200 OR MORE ACRES DESTROYED IN KAYAH STATE (RANGOON 216). HOME MINISTER U KO KO, POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL U SHWE THAN AND INTELLIGENCE CHIEF COL. AUNG HTAY TOURED EASTERN BURMA TO INSPECT CURRENT ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

10. NEWS AGENCY BURMA DROPPING AP SERVICE(UNCLAS)

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NEWS AND PERIODICALS CORP., U BA KYAW, HAS CONFIRMED GUB PLANS TO TERMINATE ITS CONTRACT WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FOR NEWS AND PHOTOS. IN THE FUTURE, NAB WILL STILL RELY ON UPI AND 17 OTHER COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED NEWS AGENCIES. ALTHOUGH MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE AP IS BEING DROPPED BECAUSE OF ITS COVERAGE OF THE INYA LAK HOTEL CHRISTMAS PARTY
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INCIDENT, U BA KYAW SAID THAT AP WAS SIMPLY TOO EXPENSIVE AND THAT THE DECISION TO TERMINATE THE SERVICE HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE DECEMBER.
HOWARTH

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